

Extreme Makeover: Visiting Room 1

By Valene Tuttle, Division of Child and Family Services

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Spanish Fork – With all the ups and downs of the economy and doom and gloom of the budget cuts, morale at the Division of Child and Family Services Spanish Fork office was down during the holidays until we received a phone call from staff at Central Bank Mapleton Branch. Charlene Butler, Assistant Vice President and Office Manager of Central Bank had previously teamed with DCFS in support of her grandchildren. Charlene's involvement with DCFS was very positive with the only negative being the dingy white walls, stained carpets, and the broken toys of our visiting room. Charlene, Laina Norman and other Central Bank staff requested brighten up the visiting room and make it more family friendly instead of doing Sub for Santa for a few families in the community. "By doing this, we felt we could help hundreds, even thousands, instead of just one family," said Laina.

High school students helped scrub the walls, move furniture, throw away broken toys and make the room ready to paint. The room was quickly transformed into a bright, cheery yellow – accented by a darling jungle theme border – with a blue chalkboard wall to allow for creativity. New wall decorations and toys were brought in, to include an art center and a train table. Central Bank also purchased pajamas in all different sizes, diapers, and wipes for children coming into the system without these items.

"It was so nice to be able to give back for all they did for my grandchildren," said Charlene. "I hope we'll be able to do something similar next year – maybe the visiting room at the Provo office." Our new and improved visiting room has touched so many lives already. The room is now like a ray of sunshine, so we keep the door open whenever possible. Many families have been able to visit in this beautiful new room, staff have been able to show the room off to everyone that comes in, and the high school students were able to serve the community and

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reap the rewards of giving. "Thank you" does not seem adequate to show how much the Central Bank staff have touched so many lives. The brightness and joy the visiting room now brings to families in crisis, community, and staff at DCFS has helped us all to have hope for brighter days. Thank You Central Bank staff for thinking of us and helping so many!